





**THE BRITISH COLONIST**  
Saturday Morning, October 24, 1863.

**TO ADVERTISERS.**  
All advertisements, unless the time for which they are to be inserted is specified, will be continued until ordered out, and no charge.

**JOB PRINTING.**  
Book and Job Printing of every description neatly executed. Terms, cash on delivery of the work.

The bill to admit colonial barristers and attorneys to practise in Vancouver Island, which passed through the Committee of the House to day, puts lawyers who have been educated in British Colonies on an equal footing entirely with those who have studied and qualified themselves for practice at home. There has been an agitation on this subject for some time past; and it is a sign of the times, and a further proof that no protection is to be kept up, so far as native talent is concerned at all events; for by allowing gentlemen who have studied law in other countries to come to this colony and practise without any probation, a great element of talent and education to come here to fit themselves for the practice of the law with the view of making this country their home; and so far as the public are concerned, an advantage will be gained by admitting colonial barristers, &c. as a field will be opened for those who are successful in their own country. From the competition existing there, will come here to try to better their fortune. Colonial barristers are not likely to come here with the sole view of making as much money as possible and leaving this colony with all their gains. This is of course applicable to English lawyers as well; but we are quite as likely to have a host of legal adventurers from England as from Canada. We intend no sort of disrespect to the English Bar, for we know them to be a strictly honorable body, and of their legal talents and attainments there can be no doubt, but we cannot expect that we shall have the best men from that Bar to practice here, any more than we have the best lawyers from Canada coming to this colony. But in our zeal for free trade it seems to be injudicious to do anything to check the establishment of a bar composed of barristers and solicitors educated for the law and called to the bar in this colony. The policy of other colonies has always been to encourage colonists to follow all the liberal professions, and very properly so, for a lawyer who has been to some extent brought up in a colony, it is presumed will be better acquainted with the laws specially relating to that colony than one who has been brought up elsewhere. But if the law is to be left to any man to claim admission to the Bar or to the Attorney-General in England or the colonies, whilst we are opening the door very widely for strangers, we are offering no prospect to clerks or students serving their time here. Some discretion should certainly be left with the judicial authorities as to the case, both in England and all her dependencies where there is no Bar qualified to call its own members, and the judges of the Supreme Court have the power to pass rules and regulations for the admission of practitioners.

Some reform is wanted amongst our lawyers here as well as in the laws, and it is quite possible that the infusion of fresh blood may have a beneficial effect, and as the colony increases there will, no doubt, be room for many more lawyers, but until the Courts of Law are presided over by lawyers we cannot expect to find our practitioners perfect, be they English or Canadian. As the House have taken in hand reform of the lawyers, might they not go further and remodel the whole system of the Courts, beginning at the head. There is something grievously wrong about the whole system, suits which ought to be carried through rapidly are delayed, to the great detriment of suitors by repeated adjournments, and the public time, so far as the administration of law is concerned, is frittered away. The Courts are at a distance from the business part of the town, and owing to the Supreme Court not sitting in a building devoted exclusively to the business of the Court its sittings have frequently to be interrupted to make way for the Sessions of Parliament. There is abundant field for reform here, which is worthy of the consideration of any independent member.

A crusade seems to have been commenced on the part of the police against the publicans of this city, which considering the remarkable immunity from ordinary public house rows, and from breaches of the law arising out of drunkenness which this colony has enjoyed, is somewhat surprising. Victoria has been since the first Fraser River gold excitement the centre of attraction for the miners at this season of the year, and when we consider the temptations which the town affords to men who have been for some time debilitated from all sorts of relaxation, to break out into excess, we think that we have every reason to be satisfied and contented with the comparative order and quiet that has reigned amongst us. Those whose business or pleasure leads them into the streets of Victoria at least cannot fail to be struck with the silence that prevails abroad after business hours; occasionally, of course, there will be a drunken brawl, but these are the exception and not the rule. Those who know by experience what appearance is presented in any of the towns adjacent to mining districts in other countries must be struck by the contrast, and although the population of Victoria is considerably smaller than any of the principal mining towns in Australia and California, from being the first town in which those leaving the mining districts can find any temptation to remain for any length of time, the comparison is not out of place—and if we may compare large things with small, the streets of London and the licensed houses of the metropolis will for order and regularity bear no comparison with our own. The laws regarding licenses are very strict in England more particularly as regards closing at the proper hour, yet no one who has been in the habit of walking through the streets of London on a Sunday evening after closing hours does not remember a quiet house where he could drop in to take his evening glass without the slightest danger of disturbance or molestation, nay, who could point out the desired spot more readily than the policeman of the beat. After the passing of the early closing act it was found absolutely necessary to relax the strict enforcement of its provisions or to allow them to be infringed without observation, so long as there was no disturbance in the house or in the neighborhood where a house was known to the police to be open after hours. And if it was not found necessary to draw the law to its utmost limit in London, can it be necessary to be over scrupulous and strict here? With a mining population amongst us for the winter season of the year we are bound so long as their cord is what it should be, to offer every inducement to them to stay with us, rather than by enforcing rules and laws more fitted and necessary for old countries to drive them to place where they will feel themselves more at liberty. We would not for one moment lend our columns to the encouragement of

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Programme in Tuesday morning's paper.

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Stock Marked in Plain Figures.

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Wharf Street, west of James Bay, 2023

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**Sporborg & Rueff,**  
**COMMISSION MERCHANTS,**  
**Importers and Wholesale Dealers**  
—IN—  
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